(g) if so, what is the composition thereof and what are its terms of reference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Air India has submitted a proposal for acquisition of four Boeing 747-400 aircraft during 1992-96.

(c) to (g) The process of selection of engines for the aircraft is yet to be completed.

Upgrading of Jaipur Airport

187. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Jaipur Airport urgently requires expansion of its runway to accommodate, Airbus flights and also there is need for construction of spacious departure and arrival terminals and installation and baggage conveyor belts; and

(b) by when Government propose to upgrade Jaipur airport as an international airport keeping in view its tourist importance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI HARMOHAN DHAWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are no plans to make Jaipur airport as an international airport. However, the National Airports Authority have plans to carry out major additions/alterations to the existing terminal building and to extend the main runuway by 1500 feet for operation of A-320 aircraft during 1991-92 subject to the State Government diverting a small road running across the airport land.

Setting up of a National Power Grid

188. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made for the setting up of a National Power Grid;

(b) what was the total amount of Central assistance/loan released to the States for power generation programmen in 1990-91 (upto the end of December, 1990) and what is the estimated provision made for the year 1991-92, particularly pertaining to the States of Rajasthan and Orissa; and

(c) whether a new technology of High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) transmission has been found to be useful, if so, in which parts of the country the HVDC transmission system has been introduced so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE): (a) Power systems of the various states in the country have been connected together to form five regional gride. Inter connections between the various regions will be provided by means of HVDC back to back tie line stations for controlled transfer of power from one region to the other. This will from the structure of the National Grid which will evolve over a period of time. HVDC tie line station between Northern and Western Region is in operation.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) High Voltage Direct Current has been found useful for bulk transfer of ower and a line between Rihand and Dadri is expected to be brought in stable operation shortly.